

Senator Cardin's County and Municipal Governments Guide to CARES Act Funding

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Programs – \$25 billion available nationwide

What can the allocated funding be used for? The CARES Act provides funding to five FTA formula programs, including the Urbanized Area Formula, State of Good Repair, Nonurbanized Area, Density Population, and Growing States. The funding provided under this section to public transit operators is to protect public health and safety while ensuring transportation access to jobs, medical treatment, food, and other essential services remain available during the COVID-19 response. As the revenues that sustain these essential services are severely impacted due to a reduction in fare box revenue and dedicated sales taxes, this increased Federal investment will help to sustain transit jobs, reduce pressure on state and local governments to backfill the loss of fare box revenue, and preserve access to our public service and critical workforce that are the backbone of our COVID-19 prevention, response, and recovery efforts.

What is the formula for state, county and city assistance? The CARES Act utilizes the existing formulas for the five programs.

How much funding will Maryland receive? Overall, Maryland will receive \$695,418,978 under the five formulas. The state and local share for each of the formulas has yet to be determined, however the following transit systems across the state will receive at least some funding from at least one of the five formulas. Note, due to the complexity of the Urbanized Area Formula, some county transit systems that receive funding may not be listed below. ***This section will be updated as additional state and local share information becomes available.***

- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)
- Baltimore City Transit Bureau
- Allegany County Transit
- Carroll Transit System
- Charles County's VanGO
- Frederick County's TransIT
- Harford Transit Link
- ShoreTransit serving Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties
- St. Mary's Transit System
- Washington County Transit

How can a state, territory, or local government unit apply and when can we expect funding?

The FTA will automatically award these funds to the Maryland Transit Administration and respective local transit systems for qualified jurisdictions within seven days.

Does the CARES Act provide any special flexibility or specific conditions for utilizing this funding? Yes, it provides the supplemental funding on a 100 percent federal cost share.